

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 October 2002 (17.10.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/080960 A2

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A61K 38/22,  
31/00, 38/00, 39/395, G01N 33/50, A61P 25/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB02/01633

(22) International Filing Date: 5 April 2002 (05.04.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0108689.1 5 April 2001 (05.04.2001) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL [GB/GB]; 20 Park Crescent, London, Greater London W1B 1AL (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SIBSON, Nicola, Ruth [GB/GB]; c/o MRC Biochemical & Clinical Magnetic Resonance Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX1 3QU (GB). ANTHONY, Daniel, Clive [GB/GB]; 11 Wynn-dham Street, London, Greater London W1H 1DB (GB).

(74) Agents: KIDDLE, Simon, J. et al.; Mewburn Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London, Greater London WC2B 6HP (GB).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



WO 02/080960 A2

(54) Title: NEUROPATHOLOGIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPRESSION OF TNF-\$G(A)

(57) Abstract: A treatment for neuropathologies associated with elevated levels of the cytokine TNF- $\alpha$  in the brain is disclosed. The resulting reduction in cerebral perfusion can be eliminated by the administration of an endothelin receptor antagonist, an antagonist to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor, an endothelin converting enzyme inhibitor or an endothelin neutralising agent. Evaluation of suitable treatment compounds which bind to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or the endothelin receptors (ET<sub>A</sub> and ET<sub>B</sub>), and which act as an antagonist at these receptors, can be performed using *in vivo* MRI techniques to detect an increase in cerebral perfusion.

**Neuropathologies Associated With Expression of TNF- $\alpha$** **Field of Invention**

5 The present invention relates to the treatment of neuropathologies associated with expression of tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ). The present invention further relates to methods of identifying compounds useful in the treatment of these conditions.

**10 Background of Invention**

15 Expression of the proinflammatory cytokine tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) is associated with the pathology of a broad spectrum of central nervous system (CNS) disease and injury. However, the consequences of TNF- $\alpha$  expression – whether detrimental or protective – remains the focus of considerable debate and confusion in the literature.

20 TNF- $\alpha$  has been quantified in post-mortem tissue from the brains of both cerebral malaria<sup>1</sup> and HIV-1 patients<sup>2,3</sup>, indicating local production of the cytokine. TNF- $\alpha$  expression has also been demonstrated in post-mortem brain tissue from patients with bacterial meningitis<sup>1,4</sup>, a condition in which intrathecal levels of TNF- $\alpha$  correlate 25 positively with the degree of blood-brain barrier (BBB) breakdown, disease severity and indices of meningeal inflammation<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, TNF- $\alpha$  expression is associated with demyelinating multiple sclerosis (MS) lesions<sup>6</sup> and the presence of TNF- $\alpha$  in cerebrospinal fluid 30 from MS patients correlates with disease activity<sup>7</sup>. Thus, the accumulated evidence suggests a role for TNF- $\alpha$  in the pathophysiology of a variety of CNS disorders, although the mechanisms by which this cytokine contributes to

disease or injury severity remain unresolved.

Following both stroke and trauma the inflammatory response has been shown to contribute to secondary injury and increased lesion volume. However, although TNF- $\alpha$  is the archetypal pro-inflammatory cytokine, it can be both neurotoxic and neuroprotective in models of cerebral ischaemia and head injury (for review see ref. 8). It has been suggested that in the early stages of injury over-expression of TNF- $\alpha$  is deleterious, while at later time points it may contribute to recovery of injured tissue<sup>8,9</sup>. Recently, Gourin and Shackford<sup>10</sup> reported elevated TNF- $\alpha$  levels in cerebral microvascular endothelium isolated from head-injured patients, suggesting possible cerebrovascular effects of this cytokine.

#### Summary of the Invention

Broadly, the present invention is based on the finding that the presence of TNF- $\alpha$  in the brain, and in particular elevated levels of TNF- $\alpha$ , is associated with low cerebral perfusion, which can be eliminated by treatment with an endothelin receptor antagonist. Thus, the present invention proposes the treatment of neuropathologies associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$  within the brain tissue by the use of (a) endothelin receptor antagonists, (b) endothelin converting enzyme inhibitors, or (c) endothelin neutralising agents. In addition, of the two TNF- $\alpha$  receptor subtypes, p55 and p75, activation of the p75 receptor is required for the TNF- $\alpha$ -induced reduction in perfusion. Thus, the present invention proposes the treatment of neuropathologies in which TNF- $\alpha$  is expressed within the brain tissue by

antagonists of the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor-mediated pathway.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is used clinically for the evaluation of many neuropathologies in which 5 inflammation is implicated. Conventional MRI provides a sensitive measure of tissue structure and water content and, together with intravenous contrast agents, can measure BBB permeability and cerebral perfusion. In addition, diffusion weighted imaging has demonstrated a 10 sensitivity to reversible and irreversible alterations in cellular homeostasis which are undetectable histologically, notably in acute ischaemia and spreading depression<sup>11</sup>. Owing to the non-invasive nature of MRI, these techniques are ideally suited to the temporal 15 evaluation of brain disease *in vivo*.

The experiments described herein employed MRI techniques to investigate the effects of a focal striatal injection of TNF- $\alpha$  on cerebral perfusion, on BBB and B-CSF-B 20 viability, and on tissue water diffusion. These experiments demonstrated the diverse actions of TNF- $\alpha$  in the brain and provide a mechanistic basis by which this cytokine may contribute to the pathogenesis of diseases associated with TNF- $\alpha$  expression, such as cerebral 25 malaria, multiple sclerosis, HIV-dementia, cerebral tuberculosis, trypanosomiasis, bacterial meningitis, in which TNF- $\alpha$  is over-expressed within the brain parenchyma. The results reported here identify low 30 cerebral perfusion, compromised neuronal energy metabolism, and damage to the blood brain barriers as effects of elevated TNF- $\alpha$  that may contribute to neuronal degeneration or dysfunction in these diseases.

Using magnetic resonance imaging *in vivo* the results disclosed herein show that a focal injection of tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$  into the brain parenchyma induces a rapid reduction in cerebral perfusion and concomitant 5 breakdown of the blood-cerebrospinal fluid barrier. The reduction in cerebral perfusion is completely ameliorated by an endothelin-receptor antagonist. After 24 hours, blood-brain barrier breakdown together with a widespread reduction in tissue water diffusion is evident within the 10 brain parenchyma. This study demonstrates detrimental effects of TNF- $\alpha$  within the deep brain parenchyma, and suggests a therapeutic role for endothelin-receptor antagonists in neuropathologies associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$ .

15

Accordingly, in a first aspect, the present invention provides the use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$ .

20

In a further aspect, the present invention provides the use of an inhibitor of an enzyme which is capable of catalysing the conversion of endothelin precursors to endothelin peptides for the preparation of a medicament 25 for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$ .

In a further aspect, the present invention provides the use of an endothelin neutralising agent for the 30 preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$ .

In a further aspect, the present invention provides the use of an antagonist to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor and/or pathway for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with expression 5 of TNF- $\alpha$ .

Examples of conditions which are neuropathologies associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$  include (i) cerebral malaria, (ii) multiple sclerosis, (iii) HIV-dementia, 10 (iv) cerebral tuberculosis, (v) trypanosomiasis or (vi) bacterial meningitis. The present invention is applicable to both the therapeutic and prophylactic treatment of these conditions. For example, prophylactic treatment might be particularly useful in the case of 15 malaria.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating a neuropathology associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$ , the method comprising administering 20 to a patient in need of therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of (a) an endothelin receptor antagonist, (b) an inhibitor of an enzyme which is capable of catalysing the conversion of big endothelins to their mature forms, (c) an endothelin 25 neutralising agent, and/or (d) an antagonist to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor and/or pathway.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of identifying compounds useful for the treatment 30 of a TNF- $\alpha$  mediated neuropathology, the method comprising contacting one or more candidate compounds and (a) a TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or (b) an endothelin receptor (ET<sub>A</sub> and/or

$ET_B$ ) and identifying the compounds which bind to the either the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or the endothelin receptor ( $ET_A$  and/or  $ET_B$ ).

5 The method may then comprise the additional step of determining whether the compound is a receptor antagonist, e.g. has the property of blocking the action of TNF- $\alpha$  at either the p75 receptor or downstream, including at the endothelin receptors, and testing it,

10 10 e.g. *in vivo* using the MRI techniques disclosed herein, to determine whether the compound is capable of increasing cerebral perfusion reduced by the TNF- $\alpha$  mediated pathway disclosed herein.

15 Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example and not limitation with reference to the accompanying figures.

**Brief Description of the Figures**

20 **Figure 1: Time course of injected/non-injected striatal rCBV ratios.** Graph showing effect of a focal striatal injection of either TNF- $\alpha$  or vehicle on rCBV. Values are expressed as ratios of rCBV in the treated (left) striatum vs. the untreated (right) striatum. Data are presented for three groups of animals: (i) control, intrastriatal injection of vehicle only (black bars); (ii) intrastriatal injection of 0.3  $\mu$ g recombinant rat (rr) TNF- $\alpha$  (grey bars); and (iii) intrastriatal injection of 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  (hatched bars). Values close to 1.0 indicate no change in striatal perfusion, as seen in control animals. All values are mean  $\pm$  S.D.. Asterisks indicate a significant difference between control and

treated groups: \* $P$  < 0.05, \*\* $P$  < 0.02, \*\*\* $P$  < 0.001.

**Figure 2: Striatal rCBV ratios demonstrating the effect of an endothelin receptor antagonist.** Graph showing 5 effect of the ET receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005 on the rrTNF- $\alpha$ -induced rCBV changes 1.5 h after intrastriatal injection. Values are expressed as ratios of rCBV in the treated (left) striatum vs. the untreated (right) striatum. Data are presented for five groups of animals: 10 (i) control, intrastriatal injection of vehicle only ( $n$  = 4); (ii) intrastriatal injection of 0.3  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  ( $n$  = 6); (iii) intrastriatal injection of 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  ( $n$  = 3); (iv) intravenous injection of Ro 46-2005 + intrastriatal injection of 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  ( $n$  = 6); and 15 (v) intravenous injection of sterile water + intrastriatal injection of 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  ( $n$  = 4). Values close to 1.0 indicate no change in striatal perfusion, and all values are mean  $\pm$  S.D.. \* $P$  < 0.005, unpaired t test. No significant differences were found 20 either between the control and 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  + Ro 46-2005 groups, or between the 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  and 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  +  $H_2O$  groups.

**Figure 3: Striatal rCBV ratios demonstrating the effect of rhuTNF- $\alpha$  in comparison to rrTNF- $\alpha$  and an endothelin receptor antagonist.** Graph showing effect of the rhuTNF- $\alpha$  on rCBV. Values are expressed as ratios of rCBV in the treated (left) vs. the untreated (right) striatum. Data are presented for five groups of animals: (i) control, 25 (ii) intrastriatal injection of vehicle only ( $n$  = 4); (iii) intrastriatal injection of 0.3  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  ( $n$  = 6); (iv) intrastriatal injection of 1.5  $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  ( $n$  = 3);

(iv) intrastriatal injection of 0.3 µg rhuTNF- $\alpha$  (n = 5) and (v) intrastriatal injection of 1.5 µg rhuTNF- $\alpha$  (n = 5). Values close to 1.0 indicate no change in striatal perfusion, and all values are mean  $\pm$  S.D.. \*P < 0.005, 5 unpaired t test. No significant differences were observed between the control, 0.3 µg rhuTNF- $\alpha$  and 1.5 µg rhuTNF- $\alpha$  groups.

10 **Detailed Description**

**Definitions**

In the present invention, an "endothelin receptor antagonist" is a substance that interferes with the action of endothelin peptides at an endothelin receptor.

15 Such substances may act by (a) binding to the receptor, or (b) otherwise inhibiting it from binding or interacting with an endothelin peptide. Examples of such substances include ETA antagonists such as BQ-123, BMS-182874, LU1135252, EMD94246, FR139317 or PD156707; ETB antagonists such as RES-701-1, BQ-788 or BQ2020; or combined ETA/ETB antagonists such as TAK-044, Bosentan, Ro 46-2005 or IRL3630A; or combinations of these substances.

25 In the present invention, an "endothelin converting enzyme inhibitor" is a substance that inhibits the conversion of endothelin precursors to endothelin peptides. These substances include endothelin converting enzyme (ECE-1 & ECE-2) inhibitors such as Halistan and Disulfate B. This is described in Kedzierski & Yanagisawa, Ann. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxicol., 41:851-876, 30 2001, which also describes endothelin receptors and other

materials and method useful in carrying out the present invention, such as the receptors and converting enzymes mentioned herein.

- 5 In the present invention, an "endothelin neutralising agent" is a substance that binds to the endothelin peptides and effectively inactivates them, for instance a specific binding partner such as an antibody, and more preferably a neutralising antibody. Techniques for
- 10 screening for endothelin peptide specific binding partners and producing antibodies capable of binding to and inactivating an endothelin peptide are well known in the art. Methods of producing antibodies include immunising a mammal (e.g. mouse, rat, rabbit, horse, goat, sheep or monkey) with an endothelin peptide or a fragment thereof. Antibodies may be obtained from immunised animals using any of a variety of techniques known in the art, and screened, preferably using the binding of the antibody to an endothelin peptide of
- 15 interest and/or to determine whether the antibody is a neutralising antibody, that is it is capable of binding to and inactivating an endothelin peptide or inhibiting or preventing its interaction with a receptor. For instance, Western blotting techniques or
- 20 immunoprecipitation may be used (Armitage et al, *Nature*, 357:80-82, 1992). Isolation of antibodies and/or antibody-producing cells from an animal may be accompanied by a step of sacrificing the animal.
- 25 As an alternative or supplement to immunising a mammal with an endothelin peptide, an antibody specific for the protein may be obtained from a recombinantly produced

library of expressed immunoglobulin variable domains, e.g. using lambda bacteriophage or filamentous bacteriophage which display functional immunoglobulin binding domains on their surfaces; for instance see 5 WO92/01047. The library may be naive, that is constructed from sequences obtained from an organism which has not been immunised with any of the proteins (or fragments), or may be one constructed using sequences obtained from an organism which has been exposed to the 10 antigen of interest.

The antibodies may be modified in a number of ways that are well known in the art. Indeed the term "antibody" should be construed as covering any binding substance 15 having a binding domain with the required specificity. Thus, the present invention includes the use of antibody fragments, derivatives, functional equivalents and homologues of antibodies, including synthetic molecules and molecules whose shape mimics that of an antibody 20 enabling it to bind an antigen or epitope. Humanised antibodies in which CDRs from a non-human source are grafted onto human framework regions, typically with the alteration of some of the framework amino acid residues, to provide antibodies which are less immunogenic than the 25 parent non-human antibodies, are also included within the present invention.

A hybridoma producing a monoclonal antibody according to the present invention may be subject to genetic mutation 30 or other changes. It will further be understood by those skilled in the art that a monoclonal antibody can be subjected to the techniques of recombinant DNA technology

to produce other antibodies or chimeric molecules which retain the specificity of the original antibody. Such techniques may involve introducing DNA encoding the immunoglobulin variable region, or the complementarity 5 determining regions (CDRs), of an antibody to the constant regions, or constant regions plus framework regions, of a different immunoglobulin. See, for instance, EP 0 184 187 A, GB 2 188 638 A or EP 0 239 400 A. Cloning and expression of chimeric antibodies are 10 described in EP 0 120 694 A and EP 0 125 023 A.

Hybridomas capable of producing antibody with desired binding characteristics are within the scope of the present invention, as are host cells, eukaryotic or 15 prokaryotic, containing nucleic acid encoding antibodies (including antibody fragments) and capable of their expression. The invention also provides methods of production of the antibodies including growing a cell capable of producing the antibody under conditions in 20 which the antibody is produced, and preferably secreted.

#### Methods of Screening

As described above, the present invention provides methods of screening for compounds which are capable of reversing a TNF- $\alpha$  associated reduction in cerebral perfusion and which may therefore be useful in the treatment of the neuropathologies which are the subject 25 of the invention.

30 Accordingly, the present invention provides a means to screen compounds that are likely to reverse TNF- $\alpha$ -mediated pathology in the brain. In particular the

invention enables the screening of (a) substances that are capable of binding to the endothelin receptors and inhibiting the binding of TNF- $\alpha$ -induced endothelin with its receptors, (b) substances that are able to inhibit 5 the conversion of TNF- $\alpha$ -induced endothelin precursors to mature endothelin peptides (ECE-1 & ECE-2 inhibitors), (c) substances that are able to block the binding of TNF- $\alpha$  to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor.

10 For example, in a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of identifying compounds useful for the treatment of a TNF- $\alpha$  associated neuropathology, the method comprising contacting one or more candidate compounds and the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or the endothelin 15 receptors (ET<sub>A</sub> and/or ET<sub>B</sub>) and identifying the compounds which bind to the either the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or the endothelin receptors (ET<sub>A</sub> and/or ET<sub>B</sub>). The method may then comprise the additional step of determining whether the compound is an endothelin 20 receptor or TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor antagonist, e.g. has the property of blocking the action of TNF- $\alpha$  at either the p75 receptor or downstream at the endothelin receptors, and testing it, e.g. *in vivo* using the MRI techniques disclosed herein, to determine whether the compound is 25 capable of increasing cerebral perfusion reduced by the TNF- $\alpha$  mediated pathway disclosed herein.

TNF- $\alpha$  binds to two transmembrane receptors of approximately 55 (p55, TNFR1, CD120a) and 75kDa (p75, 30 TNFR2, CD120b) (Aggarwal and Natarajan, 1996, Eur. Cytokine Network 7:93-124). While the p55 TNF- $\alpha$  receptor is ubiquitously expressed, the p75 receptor is

predominantly expressed by haematopoietic and endothelial cells. These receptors have no previously described consensus sequence involved in signal transduction and show no homology in their intracellular domains, which 5 suggests that they activate distinct signalling pathways and mediate distinct cellular processes. The recombinant rat TNF- $\alpha$  (rrTNF- $\alpha$ ) used in the studies described above binds non-specifically to both TNF- $\alpha$  receptor subtypes, whilst the recombinant human TNF- $\alpha$  (rhuTNF- $\alpha$ ) 10 will only bind to the p55 receptor in rat brain (Lewis et al., 1991, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 88: 2830-2834; Stefferl et al., 1996, Br. J. Pharmacol. 118:1919-1924). Thus, we used rhuTNF- $\alpha$  to identify the receptor subtype 15 involved in the TNF- $\alpha$  induced reduction in perfusion. In these experiments, intracerebral injection of rhuTNF- $\alpha$  caused no reduction in cerebral perfusion, in contrast to intracerebral rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection (as described above). These data show that activation of the p75 TNF- $\alpha$  receptor, either alone or in combination with the p55 20 receptor, is required for the observed reduction in cerebral perfusion. Consequently, antagonists of the p75 TNF- $\alpha$  receptor subtype represents a route of therapeutic intervention in neuropathologies associated with TNF- $\alpha$  expression within the brain.

25 In carrying out these methods, it may be convenient to screen a plurality of candidate compounds, e.g. as present in a library, at the same time, e.g. by contacting a mixture of different candidate compounds 30 with the interacting peptides, and then in the event of a positive result resolving which member of the mixture is active. These techniques are used in high throughput

screening (HTS) to increase the numbers of compounds, e.g. resulting from combinatorial chemistry program or present in library derived from a natural source material, which can be screened in a method.

5

The precise format of the assays of the invention may be varied by those of skill in the art using routine skill and knowledge. For example, interaction between substances may be studied in vitro by labelling one with 10 a detectable label and bringing it into contact with the other which has been immobilised on a solid support. Suitable detectable labels, especially for peptidyl substances include  $^{35}\text{S}$ -methionine which may be incorporated into recombinantly produced peptides and 15 polypeptides. Recombinantly produced peptides and polypeptides may also be expressed as a fusion protein containing an epitope which can be labelled with an antibody. Fusions can also be used to display the peptides or receptors, e.g. in a protein such as 20 thioredoxin, in order to present the peptide motifs in a correct three dimensional structure. The substance which is immobilized on a solid support may be immobilized using an antibody against that protein bound to a solid support or via other technologies which are known per se. 25 A preferred in vitro interaction may utilise a fusion protein including glutathione-S-transferase (GST). This may be immobilized on glutathione agarose beads. In an in vitro assay format of the type described above a test compound can be assayed by determining its ability to 30 diminish the amount of labelled peptide or polypeptide which binds to the immobilized GST-fusion polypeptide. This may be determined by fractionating the glutathione-

agarose beads by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Alternatively, the beads may be rinsed to remove unbound protein and the amount of protein which has bound can be determined by counting the amount of label present in,  
5 for example, a suitable scintillation counter.

The amount of candidate substance or compound which may be added to an assay of the invention will normally be determined by trial and error depending upon the type of  
10 compound used. Typically, from about 0.01 to 100 nM concentrations of putative inhibitor compound may be used, for example from 0.1 to 10 nM. Greater concentrations may be used when a peptide is the test substance.

15 Compounds which may be used may be natural or synthetic chemical compounds used in drug screening programmes. Extracts of plants which contain several characterised or uncharacterised components may also be used.

20 Pharmaceutical Uses  
The substances of the invention can be used in the treatment neuropathologies associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$ , and in particular, (i) cerebral malaria, (ii)  
25 multiple sclerosis, (iii) HIV-dementia, (iv) cerebral tuberculosis, (v) trypanosomiasis and (vi) bacterial meningitis. The composition may be administered alone or in combination with other treatments for these conditions, either simultaneously or sequentially  
30 dependent upon the condition to be treated.

Whether it is a polypeptide, antibody, peptide, nucleic acid molecule, small molecule, mimetic or other pharmaceutically useful compound according to the present invention that is to be given to an individual, 5 administration is preferably in a "prophylactically effective amount" or a "therapeutically effective amount" (as the case may be, although prophylaxis may be considered therapy), this being sufficient to show benefit to the individual. The actual amount 10 administered, and rate and time-course of administration, will depend on the nature and severity of what is being treated. Prescription of treatment, e.g. decisions on dosage etc, is within the responsibility of general practitioners and other medical doctors.

15 Pharmaceutical compositions according to the present invention, and for use in accordance with the present invention, may include, in addition to active ingredient, a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier, buffer, 20 stabiliser or other materials well known to those skilled in the art. Such materials should be non-toxic and should not interfere with the efficacy of the active ingredient. The precise nature of the carrier or other material will depend on the route of administration, 25 which may be oral, or by injection, e.g. cutaneous, subcutaneous or intravenous.

Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration may be in tablet, capsule, powder or liquid form. A tablet 30 may include a solid carrier such as gelatin or an adjuvant. Liquid pharmaceutical compositions generally include a liquid carrier such as water, petroleum, animal

or vegetable oils, mineral oil or synthetic oil. Physiological saline solution, dextrose or other saccharide solution or glycols such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol or polyethylene glycol may be included.

5

For intravenous, cutaneous or subcutaneous injection, or injection at the site of affliction, the active ingredient will be in the form of a parenterally acceptable aqueous solution which is pyrogen-free and has 10 suitable pH, isotonicity and stability. Those of relevant skill in the art are well able to prepare suitable solutions using, for example, isotonic vehicles such as sodium chloride injection, Ringer's injection, lactated Ringer's injection. Preservatives, stabilisers, 15 buffers, antioxidants and/or other additives may be included, as required. Examples of techniques and protocols mentioned above can be found in Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 16th edition, Osol, A. (ed), 1980.

20

#### Materials and Methods

##### Animal Preparation

Adult male Wistar rats (Harlan-Olac, UK) were anaesthetised with fentanyl/fluanisone and midazolam 25 (0.68 ml/kg of each). Using a 50  $\mu$ m-tipped glass pipette, 1  $\mu$ l rat recombinant TNF- $\alpha$  (NIBSC, Potters Bar, UK) solution was injected stereotactically 1 mm anterior and 3 mm lateral to Bregma, at a depth of 4mm into the left striatum. Animals were injected with either 0.3  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l or 30 1.5  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l of TNF- $\alpha$ , each in 0.1% BSA in low-endotoxin saline, or with vehicle solution only. Animals were positioned in the MRI probe (3.4 cm i.d. Alderman-Grant

resonator) using a bite-bar. During MRI, anaesthesia was maintained with 0.8-1.2% halothane in 50% N<sub>2</sub>O/50% O<sub>2</sub>, ECG was monitored non-invasively and body temperature was maintained at ~37°C. All procedures were approved by the 5 United Kingdom Home Office.

#### Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic resonance images were acquired using a 300 MHz Varian Inova spectrometer (Varian, Palo Alto, CA).

10 Anatomical images were acquired using a T<sub>2</sub>-weighted sequence (repetition time, TR, 3 sec; echo time, TE, 80 msec). Diffusion weighted images were acquired with a pulsed-gradient spin-echo sequence (TR 1.0 sec; TE 40 msec), using diffusion weighting values of 125, 750 and 15 1500 s.mm<sup>-2</sup>, a diffusion time of 20 msec and a diffusion gradient duration of 10 msec. Diffusion gradients were applied separately along three orthogonal axes and apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) "trace" maps were calculated<sup>40</sup>. Navigator echoes were used for motion 15 correction<sup>41</sup>. Perfusion maps were generated as described previously<sup>12</sup> from 40 time-series images during which 150 ml of a gadolinium-based contrast agent (Omniscan, Nycomed Amersham, UK) was injected via a tail vein, over a 4 sec period from image 8. Spin-echo T<sub>1</sub> weighted 20 images (TR 500 msec; TE 20 msec) were acquired both pre- and 10 minutes post-contrast agent injection to look for image enhancement owing to BBB/B-CSF-B permeability. Slice thickness was 1 mm for coronal images and 2 mm for horizontal images, except for the perfusion data sets, 25 which were all 1 mm.

#### Experimental Protocol

Four studies were carried out to investigate different aspects of the brain response to TNF- $\alpha$ .

5 (a) *Acute effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on cerebral perfusion and B-CSF-B/BBB viability*

Three groups of animals were used: (i) control, vehicle only ( $n = 4$ ); (ii) 0.3  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$  ( $n = 6$ ); and (iii) 1.5  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$  ( $n = 4$ ). Pre-contrast  $T_1$ -weighted images, perfusion data and post-contrast  $T_1$ -weighted images were 10 acquired at 1, 2, 3 and 5 h post TNF- $\alpha$  injection in the coronal plane, and at 1.5, 2.5, 3.5 and 5.5 h in the horizontal plane.

15 (b) *Acute effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on tissue water diffusion*

Two groups of animals were used: (i) control, vehicle only ( $n = 4$ ); and (ii) 0.3  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$  ( $n = 7$ ). Diffusion weighted images were acquired each hour (1 - 6 h) after TNF- $\alpha$  injection in the coronal plane, and at the half-hour time points (1.5 - 6.5 h), together with  $T_2$ -weighted 20 images, in the horizontal plane.

16 (c) *Chronic effects of TNF- $\alpha$*

In studies (a) and (b) all animals recovered from anaesthesia after the final acquisition and were re-imaged using all MRI protocols at either 24 h (control,  $n = 4$ ; 0.3 $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$ ,  $n = 8$ ; 1.5  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$ ,  $n = 3$ ) or 72 h (control,  $n = 3$ ; 0.3  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$ ,  $n = 6$ ) after stereotaxic injection. Following MRI at 24 or 72 h, the brains were perfusion-fixed for histological and immunocytochemical 30 analysis.

17 (d) *Effect of an Endothelin receptor antagonists on acute*

*cerebral perfusion changes*

Two groups of animals were used: (i) intravenous injection of the ET receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005 (1 mg in 0.25 ml sterile water) 10 min before injection of 1.5 µg TNF- $\alpha$  ( $n = 6$ ); and (ii) intravenous injection of sterile water (0.25ml) 10 min before injection of 1.5 µg TNF- $\alpha$  ( $n = 4$ ). MRI data was acquired as for (a) in the horizontal plane at 1.5 h only.

10 Histological Analysis

Following MRI, all animals were deeply anaesthetised and transcardially perfused with heparinised saline and periodate lysine paraformaldehyde (PLP). Brains were post-fixed for 4 h in PLP, immersed in 30% sucrose buffer 15 for 24 h and then embedded in Tissue Tek (Miles Inc, Elkhart) at -40°C. Cresyl violet-stained sections (50 µm) were examined for neuronal damage.

20 Immunohistochemistry on 10 µm cresyl violet-counter-stained sections was used to confirm the presence and distribution of leukocyte populations. Antigens were detected using a three-step indirect method<sup>42</sup>. Macrophage or neutrophil infiltration was quantified by counting the 25 number of ED1-positive<sup>43</sup> or HB199-positive<sup>44</sup> cells, respectively. Leukocyte numbers were calculated as an average per mm<sup>2</sup> in three non-overlapping fields containing the highest density of recruited cells within the parenchyma.

MRI Data Analysis

30 Regions of Interest (ROI) encompassing the striatum were defined on T<sub>2</sub>-weighted images in each hemisphere, and applied to all images or calculated data maps for

quantitation. For the rCBV maps and T<sub>2</sub>-weighted images the data are expressed as a ratio of injected/non-injected striatal values. All values are mean  $\pm$  S.D.. All ROI and statistical analysis was performed on images obtained in the horizontal plane (at the level of the injection site), and coronal plane data was used for qualitative purposes only.

Since data were not acquired at every time point from all animals over the acute time course (for technical reasons), a mixed-effect model followed by pair-wise t tests<sup>45</sup> was used to determine any statistical differences between the rCBV time courses for each group. Unpaired or paired t tests were used to determine significant differences at 24 and 72 h for all MRI parameters.

### Results

A minimally invasive technique to focally microinject TNF- $\alpha$  or vehicle into the brain parenchyma was used. Consequently, in the vehicle-injected animals, no visible leukocyte recruitment or damage to the brain parenchyma was observed at any time point. On T<sub>2</sub>-weighted scout images at 1 hour the injection bolus was visible as a small hyperintense area in the left striatum in all animals, and subsequent scans were positioned directly through the injection site.

#### *Acute Effects of TNF- $\alpha$ on Cerebral Perfusion*

An acute reduction in local cerebral perfusion in the injected striatum at 1.5 h as a consequence of rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection into the brain was observed, which returned gradually to normal by ~5.5 h. The local changes in

cerebral perfusion were assessed by calculating the ratio of regional Cerebral Blood Volume (rCBV) within a Region of Interest (ROI) in the injected striatum versus a matched area in the non-injected striatum of the same animal. In animals injected with either 0.3  $\mu$ g or 1.5  $\mu$ g of recombinant rat TNF- $\alpha$ , the ratio of injected/non-injected striatal rCBV was significantly reduced compared to the vehicle-injected group at 1.5 h (unpaired t tests; low dose  $P < 0.02$ , high dose  $P < 0.05$ ; Fig. 1). This reduction in rCBV was dose-dependent, with a greater reduction at the higher dose (~23%) than at the lower dose (~14%) as compared to vehicle-injected animals. Although the statistical data analysis was performed on the images acquired at 1.5, 2.5, 3.5 and 5.5 h, the reduction in perfusion was observed from as early as 1 h after the rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection in coronal images. The rCBV changes occurred prior to leukocyte recruitment to the brain parenchyma, which was first evident 4 h after the injection of rrTNF- $\alpha$ . At this time, a small number of recruited monocytes were visible in cuffs around the penetrating vessels ( $50.8 \pm 5.0$  per  $\text{mm}^2$  ED1-stained cells).

The reduction in rCBV at 1.5 h in the injected striatum was eliminated by intravenous injection of the endothelin (ET) receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005 (5mg/kg) 10 minutes prior to intracerebral rrTNF- $\alpha$  (1.5  $\mu$ g) injection (Fig. 2). In control animals injected intravenously with the vehicle (sterile water) 10 minutes prior to intracerebral rrTNF- $\alpha$  (1.5  $\mu$ g), the reduction in striatal rCBV was still evident, and comparable to the initial group of animals injected with 1.5 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$  (Fig. 2). The difference in injected/non-injected striatal rCBV ratios

for the two groups receiving an intravenous injection (Ro 46-2005 or vehicle) prior to intracerebral rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection was highly significant (unpaired t test,  $P < 0.005$ ).

5 No reduction in rCBV in the injected striatum was observed in response to intracerebral injection of rhuTNF- $\alpha$  (0.3 $\mu$ g and 1.5 $\mu$ g) in comparison to vehicle treated animals (Fig. 3), indicating that activation of TNFR1 alone does not result in a reduction in rCBV.

10

*Acute Effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on B-CSF-B and BBB Integrity*

From as early as 1.5 h after injection of 1.5  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$  (2-3 h with 0.3  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$ ), enhancement of the meninges on post-contrast  $T_1$ -weighted images was observed. This

15 enhancement indicates breakdown of the blood-cerebrospinal fluid barrier (B-CSF-B) and was first evident in the meninges overlying the parietal cortex.

The breakdown of the B-CSF-B was not detected by histochemical localisation of the tracer horseradish

20 peroxidase (HRP) at this time point, and preceded recruitment of any inflammatory cells to the meninges.

Pre-treatment with Ro 46-2005 did not significantly alter the effect of TNF- $\alpha$  on the B-CSF-B at 1.5h.

25 Over subsequent hours the B-CSF-B breakdown spread to encompass meningeal layers surrounding the frontal cortex. By 5.5 h the B-CSF-B breakdown was just visible histologically using HRP, and marked monocyte-restricted recruitment to the meninges occurred from ~4 h. In some 30 cases, the MRI signal enhancement appeared to have spread into the outermost cortical layers by 5.5 h, suggesting compromise of the pial and cortex-penetrating vessels.

In the coronal plane, meningeal enhancement around the entire injected hemisphere was observed, and this was often particularly clear around the piriform cortex where we found large numbers of monocytes histologically.

5

*Acute Effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on Tissue Water Diffusion*

From 1 to 4 h, small increases in the tissue water diffusion at the injection site were observed in all animals, which corresponded, spatially, to regions of  $T_2$  hyperintensity. This acute increase in both  $T_2$  signal intensity (5-13%) and diffusion (6-8%) reflects the small increase in extracellular water arising from the injection bolus, and resolved as the fluid was cleared.

15 *Chronic Effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on Tissue Water Diffusion, B-CSF-B/BBB Integrity, and Cerebral Perfusion*

Although ELISA measurements show that all TNF- $\alpha$  has been cleared from the brain parenchyma by 24 h, tissue water diffusion in the injected striatum of TNF- $\alpha$  injected animals was found to be significantly reduced (paired t test,  $P < 0.02$ , 0.3  $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$  group) compared with the non-injected striatum at 24 h (Table 1). Despite the focal nature of the cytokine injection, the reduction in tissue water diffusion was not restricted to the striatum and also encompassed surrounding cortical regions. The reduction in tissue water diffusion observed in the TNF- $\alpha$ -injected animals was not dose dependent, with similar reductions in both groups (Table 1). There were no significant differences between the injected and non-injected hemispheres in the control animals. The reduction in ADC was not affected by pre-treatment with the ET-receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005, with a significant

difference (paired t test,  $P < 0.03$ ) between the injected and non-injected striatal values being evident (Table 1). Similarly, there was a significant difference between the injected and non-injected striatal ADC values in the 5 animals injected with 1.5 $\mu$ g rhuTNF- $\alpha$  (paired t test,  $P < 0.02$ ; Table 1). However, although a reduction in ADC was apparent in the injected hemisphere in 3 out of 5 animals injected with the lower dose (0.3 $\mu$ g) of rhuTNF- $\alpha$ , this did not reach significance (paired t test,  $P = 0.136$ ).

10

Breakdown of the B-CSF-B in all animals injected with rrTNF- $\alpha$  and rhuTNF- $\alpha$  persisted to 24h, when large numbers of monocytes were present in the meninges. Low-level 15 breakdown of the BBB in the brain parenchyma was also observed 24h after rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection on post-contrast  $T_1$ -weighted images. This breakdown was more evident with the higher dose (1.5 $\mu$ g) of rrTNF- $\alpha$  (increase in signal intensity of injected striatum post-gd vs. pre-gd =  $8.1 \pm 2.1\%$ ), but less apparent than that observed previously 20 following intrastriatal IL-1 $\beta$  injection (Blamire *et al.*, 2000). The pattern of BBB breakdown was similar to the tissue water diffusion changes at 24h, encompassing both striatal and cortical regions. At this time point 25 recruitment of monocytes into the brain parenchyma was marked ( $189 \pm 7$  per  $mm^2$  with 0.3 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$ ;  $n = 3$ ). Pre-treatment with the ET-receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005 did not significantly affect the level of BBB breakdown observed in animals injected with 1.5 $\mu$ g TNF- $\alpha$  (increase 30 in signal intensity of injected striatum =  $10.3 \pm 2.7\%$ ). However, in animals injected with 1.5 $\mu$ g rhuTNF- $\alpha$  the

degree of BBB breakdown appeared to be substantially reduced (increase in signal intensity of injected striatum =  $5.2 \pm 1.6\%$ ), which may be related to a lower level of monocyte recruitment ( $95 \pm 33$  per  $\text{mm}^2$ ;  $n = 3$ ) 5 compared to that induced by rrTNF- $\alpha$  at this time point.

72 h after TNF- $\alpha$  injection, both the BBB and B-CSF-B were intact, and no significant differences in tissue water diffusion was found,  $T_2$  intensity or rCBV between the 10 injected and non-injected hemispheres in any animals. However, the number of ED-1 positive macrophages present within the brain parenchyma was maximal ( $361 \pm 79$  per  $\text{mm}^2$  with  $0.3 \mu\text{g TNF-}\alpha$ ) at this time. There was no apparent neuronal cell death at any time point following the 15 single bolus injections of rrTNF- $\alpha$  or rhuTNF- $\alpha$ , as evidenced by cresyl violet staining.

### Discussion

20 In this study we have shown that a focal, intrastratal injection of TNF- $\alpha$  in the rat brain results in (i) an acute, dose-dependent reduction in cerebral blood volume that is mediated by endothelin, and coupled to activation of the TNF- $\alpha$  receptor 2 (TNFR2) pathway, (ii) early 25 breakdown of the blood-CSF barrier and delayed breakdown of the blood-brain barrier, and (iii) a delayed reduction in tissue water diffusion. At all times leukocyte recruitment to the brain (parenchyma and meninges) was restricted solely to monocytes, as reported 30 previously<sup>46,47</sup>. These results are in contrast to our previous findings following intrastratal injection of

IL-1 $\beta$ , which induced an increase, rather than a decrease, in cerebral blood volume and recruited only neutrophils to the brain parenchyma<sup>12</sup>. In peripheral tissues, IL-1 $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$  have been reported to have similar effects and, 5 it is surprising, therefore, that these cytokines have different effects within the CNS. Despite these differences, both cytokines result in a decrease in tissue water diffusion, although this is delayed in TNF- $\alpha$ -injected animals compared to IL-1 $\beta$ -injected animals. 10 The implications of the current findings are discussed below.

Effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on Cerebral Blood Volume

Our data demonstrate that there is a profound, acute 15 reduction in striatal rCBV as a direct consequence of focal rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection. Few investigations of the effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on cerebral perfusion have been reported previously, and where data is available the results are somewhat contradictory. Several years ago, Megyeri et 20 al.<sup>13</sup> demonstrated vasoconstriction in pial arterioles following intracisternal injection of rhuTNF- $\alpha$  into newborn piglets. In contrast, Brian and Faraci<sup>14</sup> recently demonstrated dilation of pial arterioles following superfusion of the rat cortex with TNF- $\alpha$ . Both of these 25 studies report the effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on the superficial pial arterioles of the brain, rather than the intraparenchymal microvasculature. Similarly, intracisternal injections of TNF- $\alpha$  have been shown to decrease whole brain CBF in rabbits<sup>15</sup> and to increase 30 cortical blood flow in rats<sup>16</sup>. Again, it is likely that in both studies the effects of TNF- $\alpha$  were exerted on the

superficial, rather than intraparenchymal, vessels, and that the differences reflect either species or dose differences. In rat models of cerebral ischaemia, inhibition of endogenous TNF- $\alpha$  has been shown to improve 5 microvascular perfusion<sup>17</sup> and enhance cerebral blood flow during reperfusion<sup>18</sup>. On this basis, it has been suggested that expression of TNF- $\alpha$  following focal cerebral ischaemia may contribute to impairment of microvascular perfusion, either as a consequence of recruited 10 leukocytes obstructing cerebral vessels or via a direct vasoconstrictor effect of the cytokine itself<sup>17</sup>. Our data demonstrate clearly that an intracerebral injection of rrTNF- $\alpha$  causes acute, temporary vasoconstriction of local 15 parenchymal vessels that is independent of recruited leukocytes.

Since the reduction in rCBV precedes monocyte recruitment, we hypothesised that this might occur via TNF- $\alpha$ -induced expression of endothelin peptides (ET-1 and 20 ET-3), which are known vasoconstrictors. Many pathologies associated with increased cytokine production also exhibit elevated levels of circulating ET-1, and peripheral injection of TNF- $\alpha$  into rats significantly increases plasma ET-1 concentrations within 15 minutes<sup>19</sup>. 25 Our data demonstrate that the vasoconstrictor effects of rrTNF- $\alpha$  within the brain parenchyma *in vivo* can be completely eliminated by prior administration of an ET receptor antagonist which blocks both ET<sub>A</sub> and ET<sub>B</sub> receptors<sup>22</sup>. We suggest, therefore, that the observed 30 effects of rrTNF- $\alpha$  on rCBV are mediated via the action of ET on its receptors. ET-1 production by both bovine and

human cerebral endothelial cells in culture is increased by TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>20,21</sup>, and vascular smooth muscle cells have also been shown to secrete ET-1 in inflammatory lesions<sup>48</sup>. It is likely, therefore, that the observed reduction in rCBV 5 is caused by the action of TNF- $\alpha$  on the brain microvessel endothelial and smooth muscle cells to provoke the release of ET, which subsequently causes vasoconstriction primarily through its action on the smooth muscle cell ET<sub>A</sub> receptors<sup>48</sup>.

10

TNF- $\alpha$  binds to two transmembrane receptors of approximately 55 (p55, TNFR1) and 75kDa (p75, TNFR2)<sup>49</sup>. While the TNFR1 is ubiquitously expressed, the TNFR2 is predominantly expressed by haematopoietic and endothelial 15 cells, and they are thought to activate distinct signalling pathways and mediate distinct cellular processes. The rrTNF- $\alpha$  used in these studies binds non-specifically to both TNF- $\alpha$  receptor subtypes, whilst rhuTNF- $\alpha$  will bind only to TNFR1 in rat brain<sup>50,51</sup>. In 20 contrast to rrTNF- $\alpha$  injection, intrastriatal injection of rhuTNF- $\alpha$  caused no reduction in rCBV. These data indicate that activation of the TNFR2, either alone or in combination with the TNFR1, is essential for the TNF- $\alpha$ -induced reduction in rCBV, and that activation of this 25 pathway leads to ET release, probably via activation of the microvascular endothelial cells. These data may explain the discrepancies in TNF- $\alpha$ -mediated effects on cerebral perfusion reported previously, where rhuTNF- $\alpha$  was used in rodent studies before rrTNF- $\alpha$  became widely 30 available.

In this study we have used a single bolus injection of TNF- $\alpha$  into the striatum. Previously, we have demonstrated by ELISA that following a bolus injection of TNF- $\alpha$  the level of immunoreactive TNF- $\alpha$  in the brain parenchyma has 5 fallen to 50% of maximum after 4h and is no longer quantifiable by 24h<sup>52</sup>. As a result, effects of TNF- $\alpha$  may be short-lived under this experimental protocol in comparison to neurological conditions in which TNF- $\alpha$  is expressed chronically. Therefore, whilst no 10 histopathology or neuronal loss was observed in this study, chronic TNF- $\alpha$  expression may result in a prolonged perfusion deficit that is deleterious to neuronal viability. In experimental stroke models it is well documented that a reduction of 80-90% in cerebral 15 perfusion of short duration invariably results in energy failure and neuronal death<sup>23,24</sup>. However, much less severe reductions in cerebral perfusion, if prolonged, can also lead to neuronal death<sup>25</sup>. Therefore, in neurological conditions where TNF- $\alpha$  expression is prolonged, this may 20 cause a long-term perfusion deficit that is detrimental to neuronal viability.

Both cerebral malaria<sup>53,1</sup> and the *Plasmodium berghei* ANKA model of cerebral malaria<sup>54</sup> are associated with high 25 levels of cerebral TNF- $\alpha$  expression, adhesion of monocytes to the cerebral vasculature, and increased permeability of the BBB - which are all features associated with the single bolus injection of TNF- $\alpha$  into the brain parenchyma. Further, a significant increase in 30 the expression of TNFR2, but not TNFR1, has been found on brain microvessels during cerebral malaria in susceptible

mice, and mice deficient in TNFR2 (but not those deficient in TNFR1) are significantly protected from experimental cerebral malaria<sup>55</sup>. Thus, the effects of TNF- $\alpha$  on rCBV, mediated via the TNFR2 pathway and ET production, may be a contributing factor to neuronal dysfunction or degeneration in cerebral malaria, in which the cause of neuronal damage, and ultimately patient death, are still unknown. In addition, MS pathology is associated with significant axonal degeneration<sup>26</sup>, which occurs by mechanisms that remain unclear. However, ischaemia in axons has been shown to lead to the reversal of the Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchanger, influx of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, and, consequently, axonal degeneration<sup>27</sup>. Thus, chronic low rCBV induced by TNF- $\alpha$  within MS plaques may result in metabolic insufficiency and axonal degeneration.

#### Effects of TNF- $\alpha$ on B-CSF-B and BBB Integrity

TNF- $\alpha$  is thought to play a role in BBB disruption associated with brain injury<sup>28</sup> and bacterial meningitis<sup>5</sup>, and *in vitro* has been shown to decrease the trans-endothelial resistance in cerebrovascular-derived endothelial cells<sup>29</sup>. However, few studies have considered variations in BBB compromise between the different CNS compartments. In the current study, the early unilateral increase in B-CSF-B permeability (as distinct from BBB permeability) preceded leukocyte recruitment to the brain. This effect on the B-CSF-B may reflect direct actions of TNF- $\alpha$  on the vasculature, as studies with tracers (Sibson and Anthony, unpublished data) indicate that a bolus of fluid (as injected in this study) will diffuse fairly rapidly out of the striatum and alongside

the major cortical vessels, to reach the meninges within 1.5-2h. Furthermore, the data indicate that the B-CSF-B breakdown is leukocyte-independent, since it preceded macrophage recruitment to the meninges and was no longer apparent at 72h when recruited macrophages were numerous. Although monocytes can cross an intact BBB and B-CSF-B, breakdown of these barriers may facilitate presentation of chemokines and thus recruitment to the meninges.

10 In contrast, breakdown of the BBB within the brain parenchyma at 24h was coincident with significant macrophage recruitment to the parenchyma. This finding differs from our previous studies of BBB viability using HRP, in which only very minimal leakage of tracer, 15 localised specifically to the larger parenchymal vessels, was observed 24h after a single bolus intraparenchymal injection of TNF- $\alpha$ <sup>46</sup>. In addition, the B-CSF-B breakdown observed at the early time points was visible by contrast-enhanced MRI before it became detectable using 20 HRP. The current data suggest, therefore, that contrast-enhanced MRI measurements offer a more sensitive method of detecting BBB/B-CSF-B permeability than the HRP method, probably owing to the considerably smaller molecular weight of the gadolinium-based agent (0.57kDa) 25 compared to HRP (40kDa).

Pre-treatment with the non-specific ET receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005 had no effect on the changes in BBB and B-CSF-B permeability, suggesting that these events 30 are not mediated by the TNF- $\alpha$ -induced ET pathway responsible for the rCBV reduction. However, the ET system is widespread in the brain, with ET<sub>A</sub>, ET<sub>B</sub>, ET-1 and

ET-3 being expressed by vascular, neuronal and glial cells<sup>48</sup>. Given that the Ro 46-2005 injection was administered intravenously, it is possible that it may not antagonise non-vascular effects of ET occurring deep within the brain parenchyma, such as the observed BBB breakdown and ADC reduction. It is unlikely, however, that the B-CSF-B changes would persist if they were mediated by the ET system. Rosenberg *et al*<sup>56</sup> have previously demonstrated a dose-dependent parallel increase in capillary permeability and expression of proteolytic enzymes 24h after intracerebral infusion of TNF- $\alpha$ , which could be blocked by an inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinases. On this basis, they suggest that TNF- $\alpha$  may modulate delayed capillary permeability via the matrix metalloproteinase gelatinase B. Interestingly, there appeared to be a reduction in the degree of BBB permeability at 24h following rhuTNF- $\alpha$  injection compared with the rrTNF- $\alpha$ -injected animals. These data suggest that both receptor pathways contribute to the processes underlying the BBB breakdown.

#### Effects of TNF- $\alpha$ on Tissue Water Diffusion

The areas of reduced tissue water ADC observed at 24h corresponded to the regions of BBB breakdown, and indicate a relatively widespread effect of the focal cytokine injection. Again, this is likely to result from spread of the injected bolus to neighbouring cortical regions. Reduced tissue water diffusion has been extensively documented in acute brain ischaemia<sup>57</sup>, although the exact mechanisms responsible for these changes remain unclear. In ischaemia, the temporal

evolution of reduced diffusion appears to follow the loss of high-energy metabolites<sup>30</sup> and is thought to reflect compromise of tissue energy metabolism. It has been suggested that the mechanism for the reduction in 5 diffusion may be a shift of tissue water from the faster diffusing extracellular space to the more slowly diffusing intracellular space<sup>30,31</sup>, as a result of energetic failure, disruption of cell membrane potentials and redistribution of ions. However, there is also 10 evidence that reduced overall tissue water diffusion represents changes in absolute diffusibility in all brain compartments<sup>32,33</sup>. Observations of a transient reduction in ADC during spreading depression<sup>34</sup> indicate that changes in tissue water diffusion are linked to disruption of 15 tissue energy homeostasis, rather than ischaemia *per se*. This hypothesis is supported by our previous finding that IL-1 $\beta$  causes a reduction in ADC that is accompanied by an increase in rCBV and no indicators of ischaemia<sup>12</sup>. In the current study rCBV was found to be normal within the 20 areas of reduced ADC at 24h, again suggesting that ischaemia is unlikely to be the cause of these changes.

As with the BBB permeability changes, pre-treatment with the non-specific ET receptor antagonist Ro 46-2005 had no 25 effect on the observed ADC reduction, although as discussed above this does not necessarily preclude the ET system from playing a role in these changes. However, in animals injected intrastriatally with rhuTNF- $\alpha$  there appeared to be a dose-dependent effect on tissue ADC. 30 This finding suggests that, as for the BBB permeability changes, the pathways induced by both TNF- $\alpha$  receptors may

be involved in the processes underlying the ADC changes. It has been shown that TNF- $\alpha$  is not directly toxic to neurones<sup>58,59</sup>. However, recent studies have shown that TNF- $\alpha$  markedly inhibits glutamate uptake in both human and 5 rat astrocytes in culture<sup>35-37</sup>. Thus, glutamate-induced toxicity and resultant energetic compromise of neurones may contribute to the observed reduction in tissue water diffusion at 24h. Alternatively, it has been suggested that TNF- $\alpha$  may impair the ability of astrocytes to 10 provide adequate energy substrates to neurones for oxidation<sup>38</sup>, which also could result in neuronal dysfunction.

Our single bolus injections of TNF- $\alpha$  resulted in no overt 15 neuronal cell death, despite significant, but reversible, MRI-visible changes. Thus, reversible TNF- $\alpha$ -induced decreases in cerebral perfusion and compromise of neuronal energy metabolism may provide an explanation for one of the puzzling clinical sequelae of cerebral malaria 20 - sudden losses of consciousness, sometimes with rapid recovery and no evidence of neuronal cell death. Furthermore, the adenovirus experiments suggest that prolonged TNF- $\alpha$  expression in the brain parenchyma may be profoundly detrimental to neuronal function and survival. 25 Our data suggest that both endothelin receptors, and the TNFR2 pathway, are potential targets for therapeutic intervention in neuropathologies, such as cerebral malaria, that are associated with high cerebral TNF- $\alpha$  expression.

Table 1: Apparent diffusion coefficients of tissue water in each striatum.

Apparent Diffusion Coefficient ( $\times 10^{-4}$ mm $^2$ /sec)			0.3 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$		1.5 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$		Ro 46-2005		0.3 $\mu$ g rhuTNF- $\alpha$		1.5 $\mu$ g rhuTNF- $\alpha$	
Time	Left	Right	Vehicle		+ 1.5 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$		+ 1.5 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$		Left		Right	
			Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right	Left	Right
24h	6.78	6.79	6.28 <sup>a</sup>	6.99	6.30 <sup>a</sup>	6.90	6.72 <sup>b</sup>	7.23	7.15	7.33	6.76 <sup>a</sup>	7.14
	$\pm 0.35$	$\pm 0.35$	$\pm 0.38$	$\pm 0.46$	$\pm 0.52$	$\pm 0.35$	$\pm 0.25$	$\pm 0.17$	$\pm 0.28$	$\pm 0.26$	$\pm 0.20$	$\pm 0.31$
72h	6.59	6.50	6.82	6.55								
	$\pm 0.25$	$\pm 0.22$	$\pm 0.42$	$\pm 0.36$								

Maps of the apparent diffusion coefficient (ADC) of tissue water were calculated from the diffusion-weighted images, and the ADC was measured within a region of interest in each striatum (Left = treated, Right = control). Values are mean  $\pm$  S.D. for  $n = 4$  (control groups),  $n = 8$  (0.3 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$ , 24h),  $n = 6$  (0.3 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$ , 72h),  $n = 4$  (1.5 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$ , 24h),  $n = 4$  (Ro 46-2005 + 1.5 $\mu$ g rrTNF- $\alpha$ , 24h),  $n = 5$  (0.3 $\mu$ g rhuTNF- $\alpha$ , 24h) and  $n = 5$  (1.5 $\mu$ g rhuTNF- $\alpha$ , 24h). Significant differences from control (right) striatum were determined by paired t tests, <sup>a</sup> $P < 0.02$ , <sup>b</sup> $P < 0.05$ .

**References**

The references cited herein are all expressly incorporated by reference.

1. Brown *et al.* Cytokine expression in the brain in human cerebral malaria. *J Infect Dis* 180, 1742-6 (1999).
2. Achim *et al.* Quantitation of human immunodeficiency virus, immune activation factors and quinolinic acid in AIDS brains. *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 91, 2769-2775 (1993).
3. Nuovo *et al.* In situ detection of polymerase chain reaction-amplified HIV-1 nucleic acids and tumor necrosis factor-alpha RNA in the central nervous system. *Am J Pathol* 144, 659-66 (1994).
4. Waage *et al.* Local production of tumor necrosis factor alpha, interleukin 1, and interleukin 6 in meningococcal meningitis. Relation to the inflammatory response. *J Exp Med* 170, 1859-67 (1989).
5. Sharief *et al.* Blood-brain barrier damage in patients with bacterial meningitis: association with tumor necrosis factor-alpha but not interleukin-1 beta. *J Infect Dis* 166, 350-8 (1992).
6. Woodroffe *et al.* Cytokine mRNA expression in inflammatory multiple sclerosis lesions: detection by non-radioactive in situ hybridization. *Cytokine* 5, 583-8 (1993).
7. Hauser *et al.* Cytokine accumulations in CSF of multiple sclerosis patients: frequent detection of interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor but not interleukin-6. *Neurology* 40, 1735-9 (1990).
8. Shohami *et al.* Dual role of tumor necrosis factor alpha in brain injury. *Cytokine Growth Factor Rev*

10, 119-30 (1999).

9. Scherbel *et al.* Differential acute and chronic responses of tumor necrosis factor-deficient mice to experimental brain injury. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 96, 5 8721-6 (1999).

10. Gourin & Shackford, Production of tumor necrosis factor-alpha and interleukin-1beta by human cerebral microvascular endothelium after percussive trauma. *J Trauma* 42, 1101-7 (1997).

10 11. Hoehn-Berlage, Diffusion-weighted NMR imaging: application to experimental focal cerebral ischemia. *NMR Biomed* 8, 345-58 (1995).

15 12. Blamire *et al.* Interleukin-1beta -induced changes in blood-brain barrier permeability, apparent diffusion coefficient, and cerebral blood volume in the rat brain: A magnetic resonance study. *J Neurosci* 20, 8153-9 (2000).

20 13. Megyeri *et al.* Recombinant human tumor necrosis factor alpha constricts pial arterioles and increases blood-brain barrier permeability in newborn piglets. *Neurosci Lett* 148, 137-40 (1992).

14. Brian, Jr. & Faraci, Tumor necrosis factor-alpha-induced dilatation of cerebral arterioles. *Stroke* 29, 509-15 (1998).

25 15. Tureen. Effect of recombinant human tumor necrosis factor-alpha on cerebral oxygen uptake, cerebrospinal fluid lactate, and cerebral blood flow in the rabbit: role of nitric oxide. *J Clin Invest* 95, 1086-91 (1995).

30 16. Angstwurm *et al.* Tumour necrosis factor alpha induces only minor inflammatory changes in the central nervous system, but augments experimental meningitis.

*Neuroscience* 86, 627-34 (1998).

17. Dawson *et al.* Inhibition of tumor necrosis factor-alpha reduces focal cerebral ischemic injury in the spontaneously hypertensive rat. *Neurosci Lett* 218, 41-4 (1996).

18. Lavine *et al.* Circulating antibody against tumor necrosis factor-alpha protects rat brain from reperfusion injury. *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab* 18, 52-8 (1998).

10 19. Klemm *et al.* Endothelin 1 mediates ex vivo coronary vasoconstriction caused by exogenous and endogenous cytokines. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 92, 2691-5 (1995).

15 20. Durieu-Trautmann, *et al.* Nitric oxide and endothelin secretion by brain microvessel endothelial cells: regulation by cyclic nucleotides. *J Cell Physiol* 155, 104-11 (1993).

21. Skopal *et al.* Regulation of endothelin release from human brain microvessel endothelial cells. *J Cardiovasc Pharmacol* 31, S370-2 (1998).

22. Clozel *et al.* Pathophysiological role of endothelin revealed by the first orally active endothelin receptor antagonist. *Nature* 365, 759-61 (1993).

23. Tamura *et al.* Focal cerebral ischaemia in the rat: 2. Regional cerebral blood flow determined by [14C]iodoantipyrine autoradiography following middle cerebral artery occlusion. *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab* 1, 61-9 (1981).

24. Bolander *et al.* Regional cerebral blood flow and histopathologic changes after middle cerebral artery occlusion in rats. *Stroke* 20, 930-7 (1989).

25. Jacewicz *et al.* The CBF threshold and dynamics

for focal cerebral infarction in spontaneously hypertensive rats. *J Cereb Blood Flow Metab* 12, 359-70 (1992).

26. Ferguson *et al.* Axonal damage in acute multiple sclerosis lesions. *Brain* 120, 393-9 (1997).

27. Waxman *et al.* Non-synaptic mechanisms of  $Ca^{(2+)}$ -mediated injury in CNS white matter. *Trends Neurosci* 14, 461-8 (1991).

28. Feuerstein *et al.* Cytokines, inflammation, and brain injury: role of tumor necrosis factor-alpha. *Cerebrovasc Brain Metab Rev* 6, 341-60 (1994).

29. de Vries *et al.* The influence of cytokines on the integrity of the blood-brain barrier in vitro. *J Neuroimmunol* 64, 37-43 (1996).

30. van der Toorn *et al.* Dynamic changes in water ADC, energy metabolism, extracellular space volume, and tortuosity in neonatal rat brain during global ischemia. *Magn Reson Med* 36, 52-60 (1996).

31. Van Zijl *et al.* Complete separation of intracellular and extracellular information in NMR spectra of perfused cells by diffusion-weighted spectroscopy. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 88, 3228-32 (1991).

32. van der Toorn *et al.* Diffusion of metabolites in normal and ischemic rat brain measured by localized  $^1H$  MRS. *Magn Reson Med* 36, 914-22 (1996).

33. Duong *et al.* Evaluation of extra- and intracellular apparent diffusion in normal and globally ischemic rat brain via  $^{19}F$  NMR. *Magn Reson Med* 40, 1-13 (1998).

34. Latour *et al.* Spreading waves of decreased diffusion coefficient after cortical stimulation in the rat brain. *Magn Reson Med* 32, 189-98 (1994).

35. Fine *et al.* Tumor necrosis factor alpha inhibits glutamate uptake by primary human astrocytes. Implications for pathogenesis of HIV-1 dementia. *J Biol Chem* 271, 15303-6 (1996).

5 36. Hu *et al.* Cytokine effects on glutamate uptake by human astrocytes. *Neuroimmunomodulation* 7, 153-9 (2000).

10 37. Ye *et al.* Cytokine modulation of glial glutamate uptake: a possible involvement of nitric oxide. *Neuroreport* 7, 2181-5 (1996).

38. Yu *et al.* Tumor necrosis factor-alpha and interleukin-1 alpha enhance glucose utilization by astrocytes: involvement of phospholipase A2. *Mol Pharmacol* 48, 550-8 (1995).

15 39. Magistretti *et al.* Energy on demand. *Science* 283, 496-7 (1999).

40. Basser *et al.* MR diffusion tensor spectroscopy and imaging. *Biophys J* 66, 259-67 (1994).

20 41. Ordidge *et al.* Correction of motional artifacts in diffusion-weighted MR images using navigator echoes. *Magn Reson Imaging* 12, 455-60 (1994).

42. Hsu *et al.* The use of antiavidin antibody and avidin-biotin-peroxidase complex in immunoperoxidase technics. *Am J Clin Pathol* 75, 816-21 (1981).

25 43. Dijkstra *et al.* The heterogeneity of mononuclear phagocytes in lymphoid organs: distinct macrophage subpopulations in the rat recognized by monoclonal antibodies ED1, ED2 and ED3. *Immunology* 54, 589-99 (1985).

30 44. Anthony *et al.* Matrix metalloproteinase expression in an experimentally-induced DTH model of multiple sclerosis in the rats CNS. *J Neuro* 87, 62-72

(1998).

45. Vonesh *et al.* *Linear and Nonlinear Models for the Analysis of Repeated Measurements*, (Marcel Dekker Inc, New York, 1997).

5 46. Anthony DC, Bolton SJ, Fearn S, Perry VH. Age-related effects of interleukin-1B on polymorphonuclear neutrophil-dependent increases in blood-brain barrier permeability in rats. *Brain* 1997; 120: 435-444.

10 47. Glabinski A, Krajewski S, Rafalowska J. Tumor necrosis factor-alpha induced pathology in the rat brain: characterization of stereotaxic injection model. *Folia Neuropathol* 1998; 36: 52-62.

15 48. Kedzierski RM, Yanagisawa M. Endothelin system: the double-edged sword in health and disease.

15 *Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol* 2001; 41: 851-876.

49. Aggarwal BB, Natarajan K. Tumor necrosis factors: developments during the last decade. *Eur Cytokine Netw* 1996; 7: 93-124.

20 50. Lewis M, Tartaglia LA, Lee A, Bennett GL, Rice GC, Wong GH, et al. Cloning and expression of cDNAs for two distinct murine tumor necrosis factor receptors demonstrate one receptor is species specific. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1991; 88: 2830-2834.

25 51. Stefferl A, Hopkins SJ, Rothwell NJ, Luheshi GN. The role of TNF-alpha in fever: opposing actions of human and murine TNF-alpha and interactions with IL-beta in the rat. *Br J Pharmacol* 1996; 118: 1919-1924.

52. Anthony D, Blond D, Dempster R, Perry V. Castellano-Lopez B and Nieto-Sampedro M, editors.

30 *Progress in Brain Research*. Elsevier Science B.V., 2001: Chapter 40.

53. Kwiatkowski D, Hill AVS, Sambou I, Twumasi P,

Castracane J, Manogue KR, et al. TNF concentration in fatal cerebral, non-fatal cerebral, and uncomplicated *plasmodium falciparum* malaria. *Lancet* 1990; 336: 1201-1204.

5 54. Neill AL, Hunt NH. Effects of endotoxin and dexamethasone on cerebral malaria in mice. *Parasitology* 1995; 111: 443-454.

10 55. Lucas R, Juillard P, Decoster E, Redard M, Burger D, Donati Y, et al. Crucial role of tumor necrosis factor (TNF) receptor 2 and membrane-bound TNF in experimental cerebral malaria. *Eur J Immunol* 1997; 27: 1719-1725.

15 56. Rosenberg GA, Estrada EY, Dencoff JE, Stetler-Stevenson WG. Tumor necrosis factor-alpha-induced gelatinase B causes delayed opening of the blood-brain barrier: an expanded therapeutic window. *Brain Res* 1995; 703: 151-155.

20 57. Hoehn-Berlage M. Diffusion-weighted NMR imaging: application to experimental focal cerebral ischemia. *NMR Biomed* 1995; 8: 345-358.

25 58. Piani D, Spranger M, Frei K, Schaffner A, Fontana A. Macrophage-induced cytotoxicity of N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor positive neurons involves excitatory amino acids rather than reactive oxygen intermediates and cytokines. *Eur J Immunol* 1992; 22: 2429-2436.

59. Barone FC, Arvin B, White RF, Miller A, Webb CL, Willette RN, et al. Tumor necrosis factor-alpha. A mediator of focal ischemic brain injury. *Stroke* 1997; 28: 1233-1244.

Claims

1. Use of (a) an endothelin receptor antagonist,  
(b) an antagonist to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor, (c) an  
5 endothelin converting enzyme inhibitor, or (d) an  
endothelin neutralising agent for the preparation of a  
medicament for the treatment of a neuropathology  
associated with the expression of TNF- $\alpha$ .

10 2. The use of claim 1, wherein the  
neuropathologies associated with expression of TNF- $\alpha$   
include: cerebral malaria, multiple sclerosis, HIV-  
dementia, cerebral tuberculosis, trypanosomiasis and  
bacterial meningitis.

15 3. The use of claims 1 and 2, wherein the  
medicament is administered prophylactically.

20 4. The use of any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the medicament is administered therapeutically.

5. A method of identifying compounds useful for  
the treatment of a TNF- $\alpha$  mediated neuropathology, the  
method comprising:

25 contacting one or more candidate compounds and (a) a  
TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or (b) an endothelin receptor (ET<sub>A</sub> and  
or ET<sub>B</sub>); and

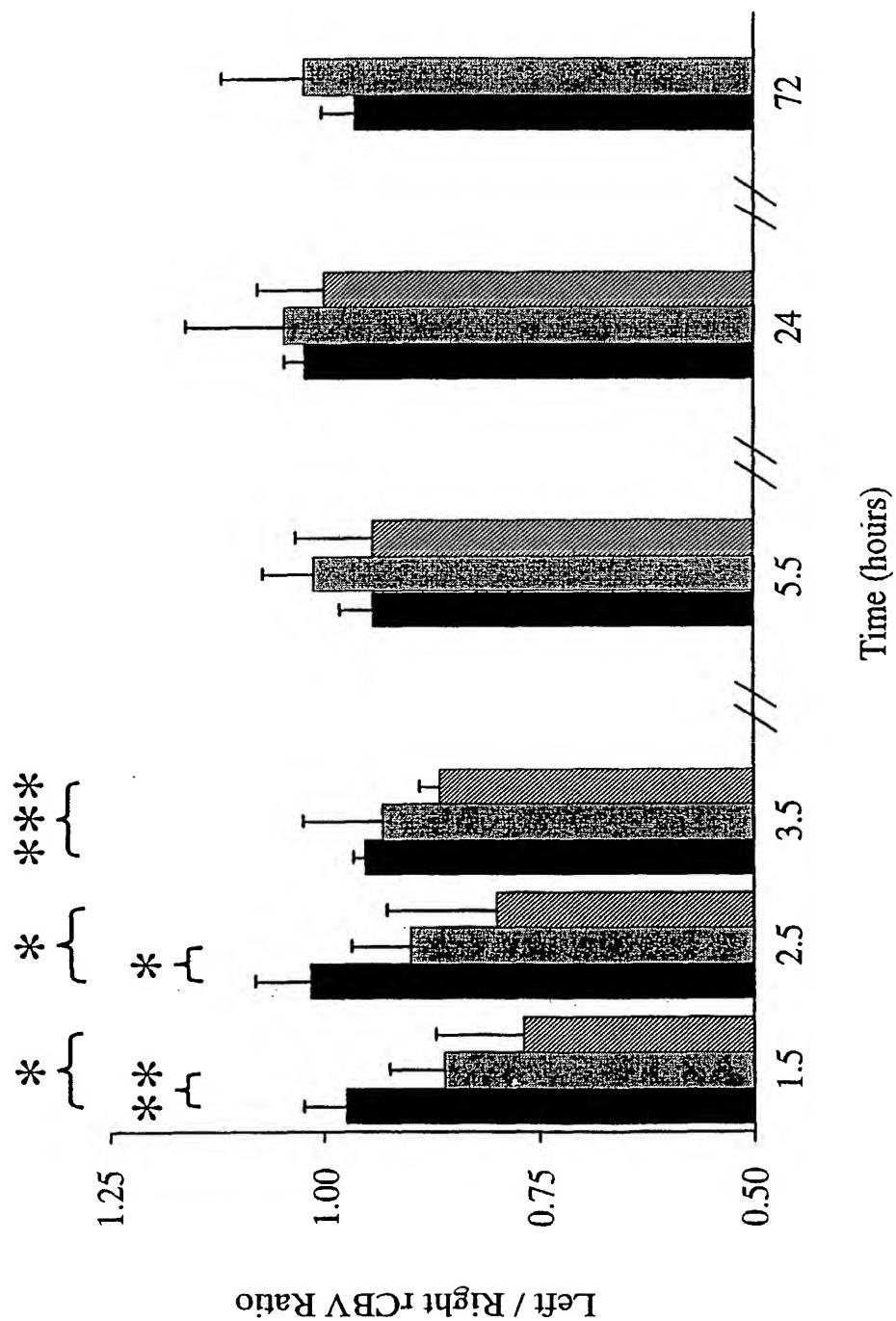
30 identifying the compounds which bind to either the  
TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or the endothelin receptor (ET<sub>A</sub> and or  
ET<sub>B</sub>).

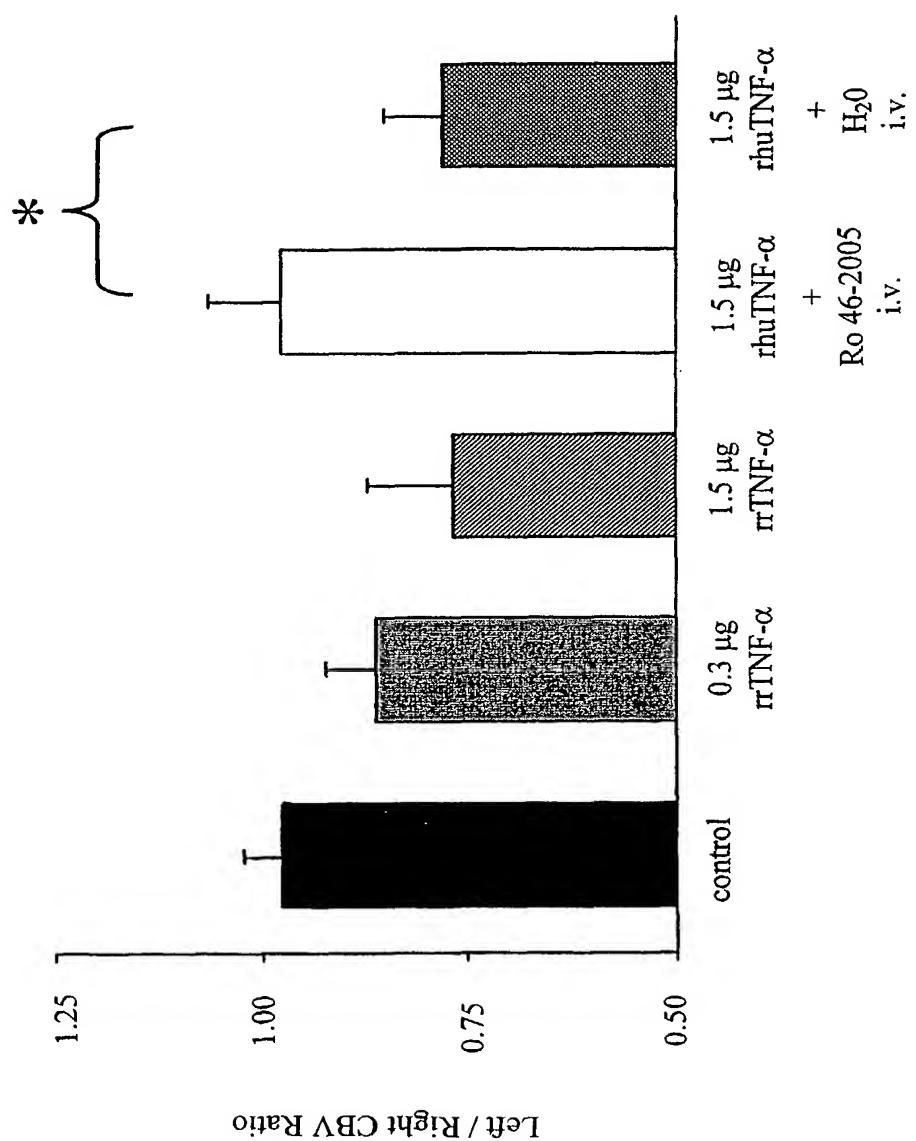
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining whether the compound is a receptor  
antagonist.

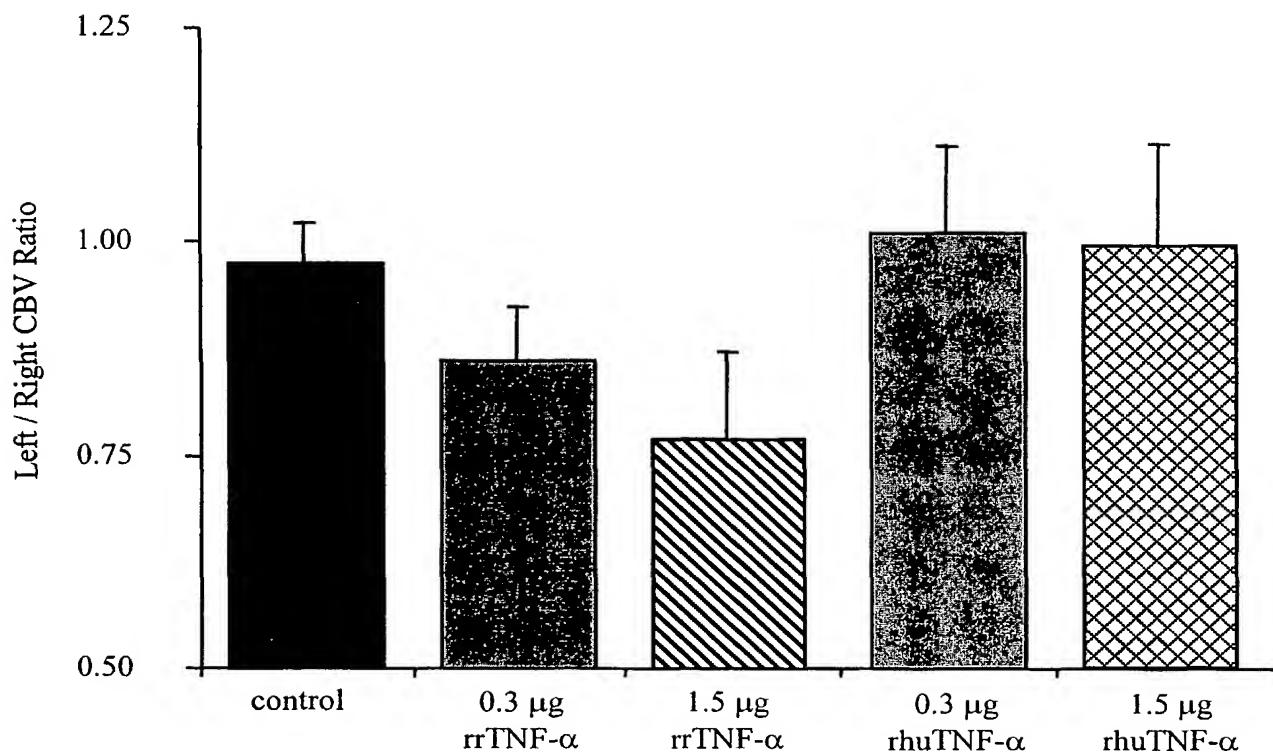
5 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of  
determining whether the compound is a receptor antagonist  
comprises determining whether it has the property of  
blocking the action of TNF- $\alpha$  at either the p75 receptor  
or downstream including at the endothelin receptors.

10

8. The method of claim 6, wherein testing the  
compound involves the use of *in vivo* MRI techniques to  
determine whether the compound is capable of increasing  
cerebral perfusion reduced by the TNF- $\alpha$  mediated pathway.

**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 October 2002 (17.10.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/080960 A3

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A61K 38/22, 31/00, 38/00, 39/395, G01N 33/50, A61P 25/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB02/01633

(22) International Filing Date: 5 April 2002 (05.04.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
0108689.1 5 April 2001 (05.04.2001) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL [GB/GB]; 20 Park Crescent, London, Greater London W1B 1AL (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SIBSON, Nicola, Ruth [GB/GB]; c/o MRC Biochemical & Clinical Magnetic Resonance Department of Biochemistry, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX1 3QU (GB). ANTHONY, Daniel, Clive [GB/GB]; 11 Wymondham Street, London, Greater London W1H 1DB (GB).

(74) Agents: KIDDLE, Simon, J. et al.; Mewburn Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London, Greater London WC2B 6HP (GB).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
6 November 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 02/080960 A3

(54) Title: TREATMENT OF NEUROPATHOLOGIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPRESSION OF TNF-ALPHA

(57) Abstract: A treatment for neuropathologies associated with elevated levels of the cytokine TNF- $\alpha$  in the brain is disclosed. The resulting reduction in cerebral perfusion can be eliminated by the administration of an endothelin receptor antagonist, an antagonist to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor, an endothelin converting enzyme inhibitor or an endothelin neutralising agent. Evaluation of suitable treatment compounds which bind to the TNF- $\alpha$  p75 receptor or the endothelin receptors (ET<sub>A</sub> and ET<sub>B</sub>), and which act as an antagonist at these receptors, can be performed using *in vivo* MRI techniques to detect an increase in cerebral perfusion.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/01633

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC 7 A61K38/22 A61K31/00 A61K38/00 A61K39/395 G01N33/50  
A61P25/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K G01N C07K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, MEDLINE, WPI Data, PAJ, EMBASE

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>NEWTON C R ET AL: "Perturbations of cerebral hemodynamics in Kenyans with cerebral malaria." PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY. UNITED STATES JUL 1996, vol. 15, no. 1, July 1996 (1996-07), pages 41-49, XP002238042 ISSN: 0887-8994 the whole document</p> <p>-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	1-4

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 July 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

- 8. 09. 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lechner, O.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/01633

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	LOOAREESUWAN S ET AL: "Polyclonal anti-tumor necrosis factor-alpha Fab used as an ancillary treatment for severe malaria." THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE. UNITED STATES JUL 1999, vol. 61, no. 1, July 1999 (1999-07), pages 26-33, XP008015715 ISSN: 0002-9637 the whole document -----	1-4
Y	KREP H ET AL: "Endothelin type A-antagonist improves long-term neurological recovery after cardiac arrest in rats." CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE. UNITED STATES AUG 2000, vol. 28, no. 8, August 2000 (2000-08), pages 2873-2880, XP008015464 ISSN: 0090-3493 the whole document -----	1-4
Y	FEUERSTEIN G ET AL: "Cytokines in brain ischemia--the role of TNF alpha." CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR NEUROBIOLOGY. UNITED STATES DEC 1998, vol. 18, no. 6, December 1998 (1998-12), pages 695-701, XP008015678 ISSN: 0272-4340 the whole document -----	1-4

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/GB 02/01633

### Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: 1-4 (all only partially)  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
  
3.  Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  
1-4 (all partially)

#### Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

-----

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 1-4 (all only partially)

Present claims 1-4 relate to compounds defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, i.e. endothelin receptor antagonist.

The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the compounds by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are also not acceptable under Article 6, PCT under the aspect that the therapeutic application is functionally defined by a pathophysiological mechanism, i.e. neuropathology associated with the expression of TNF-alpha which does not allow any practical application in the form of a defined, real treatment of a pathological condition (disease).

Consequently, the examination has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and/or concise), namely the use of the specific endothelin receptor antagonists listed on page 8, line 18-23 of the description for treating cerebral malaria as well as the general concept of treating neuropathologies associated with the expression of TNF-alpha with endothelin receptor antagonists.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the treatment of cerebral malaria

---

2. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the treatment of multiple sclerosis

---

3. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the treatment of HIV-dementia

---

4. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the treatment of cerebral tuberculosis

---

5. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the treatment of trypanosomiasis

---

6. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin receptor antagonist for the treatment of bacterial meningitis

---

7. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an antagonist to the TNF-alpha p75 receptor for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with the expression of TNF-alpha

---

8. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

Use of an endothelin converting enzyme inhibitor for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with the expression of TNF-alpha

---

9. claims: 1-4 (all partially)

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Use of an endothelin neutralising agent for the treatment of a neuropathology associated with the expression of TNF-alpha

10. Claims: 5-8

Method of identifying compounds useful for the treatment of a TNF-alpha mediated neuropathology